

March 8, 1984

LB 341A

This noon we are going to work on taking another \$8 million off of the budget to come within the bounds that we promised we would be in when we got to this part of the legislative process. I guess I find it kind of ironic to find the people that wanted to put a cap on this thing early in the session now voting for very liberal amounts of money to expand the budget and I guess this is what I expected when we had that little discussion earlier in the session. But it is hard for me to realize how we can do some of the things that have been passing when we are cutting funds out of aid to aging, we're cutting funds out of aid to the mentally retarded and we're taking funds out of all kinds of programs for our less fortunates and yet we are able to with ease, vote for a \$50 million increase for state aid to education. I just wanted to hopefully get your attention and make you realize how tough it has been for us to try to keep the budget within bounds and now, yesterday and today, with the \$17 million on homestead exemption and now \$50 million. I think you're really, as Senator Lamb said, in a state of...well in other words, I think you are dreaming. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I don't think there is going to be \$50 million there to fund this thing. I think this is unrealistic. I didn't vote against the 341, but I am going to vote against this amendment and if it gets on, I have an amendment up there to cut it back to \$25 million. I think the Appropriations Committee has suggested that might be an appropriate number. I think we should deal realistically with this issue. There are some other things in there I don't like also in LB 341 and that is that out of the \$50 million amount, only \$15 million would go to foundation and \$35 million go to equalization fund and what that means is a lot of schools won't get very much money at all out of it and so the property taxes will continue to be there and continue to rise but they will still be funding an additional huge amount through sales and income tax. So I just can't see at this point that \$50 million is a realistic number. I'm going to vote against it.